

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 77,
SB 77, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF THE
SUBMISSION OF THE PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM'S ANNUAL REPORT

February 18, 2016

Good morning, Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Kevin Reynolds and I am here today testifying on behalf the American Coatings Association (“ACA”) in support of SB 77, An Act Concerning the Timing of the Submission of the Paint Stewardship Program’s Annual Report.

The ACA is The American Coatings Association (ACA) is a voluntary, nonprofit trade association working to advance the needs of the paint and coatings industry and the professionals who work in it. The organization represents paint and coatings manufacturers, raw materials suppliers, distributors, and technical professionals. Beginning in 2010, the ACA worked very closely with the leadership of this committee, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the paint industry and community leaders to establish the Connecticut PaintCare Program. It became law in 2011 and the program went into effect in 2013. Connecticut became the 3rd state in the nation to have a PaintCare Program. Today, eight states operate a PaintCare program.

The Connecticut PaintCare Program established a sustainable funding mechanism through a fee on sales of paint in the state and built a convenient, statewide collection infrastructure. Two and a half years later, the Connecticut PaintCare program is a model for the country with 142 collection sites (with 99.9% of Connecticut’s population lives within 15 miles of a collection site), collecting 275,940 gallons in FY15 with just under 6 million gallons being sold in Connecticut. In building this collection system, PaintCare where possible partnered with

the existing collection infrastructure (household hazardous waste collections, transfer stations, reuse stores). Where did exist, we established new infrastructure, by partnering with hardware stores and paint retailers. Please note that participation to be a collection site is voluntary.

SB 77 3 extends the date for PaintCare to submit its annual report to DEEP from August 15th to October 15th. The reason for requesting this change is that PaintCare's fiscal year ends on June 30th and we learned that we do not have enough time to gather the required data in order to complete the annual report by August 1st. For the last two years, we have requested permission from the Commissioner of DEEP to file it after the deadline. While this request has been granted, all the parties agree that we ought to amend the statute.

Background on Connecticut's PaintCare Program

Connecticut's paint recycling program provides consumers and businesses with a way to manage unused paint. The program is administered by PaintCare, a non-profit organization. PaintCare collects, transports, and processes the unused paint. The program is funded by an assessment added to the purchase price of paint sold in the state. Those funds are used to collect, transport, and process the post-consumer paint; educate consumers about the program; and pay administrative expenses. The greatest expense is transport and processing.

Collected latex paint is transported to processing facilities then is processed back into recycled content paint, paint to paint. 81% of the latex collected in CT went to paint to paint in year 2. Oil-based paint is not currently reprocessed but is used as a fuel, in cement kilns or energy recovery facilities